(d) if so, whether Madhya Pradesh is also one of the States where the dry land works will be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) to (d) The proposals for the VIII Five Year Plan for creating additional irrigation facilities have not yet been finalised. However, the additional irrigation potential that would be created during VIII Plan through ongoing and new schemes, would benefit the dry land areas in Madhya Pradesh also In the VIII Plan, thrust will remain on completion of ongoing schemes

Emergency Food Aid to the Soviet Union

763 SHRI G G. SWELL Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether India have rushed emergency food aid to the Soviet Union;

(b) the amount of food delivered and the break-up of items, and

(c) whether the quantity of food that the Soviet Union will need has been assessed and if so, over what period?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have decided to provide USSR one million tonnes of wheat on a loan basis, as well as a gift of 20,000 tonnes of rice and other essential items such as medicines, medical supplies and processed food items. The first consignment consisting of medicine and food items has been sent by a special flight on 27th December, 1990.

(c) According to Soviet estimates, additional imports of Roubles 10 billion would be required in 1991 to tide over the present shortages.

Visit of former Minister of External Affairs to Kuwait

764. DR RATNAKAR PANDEY Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the then Minister of External Affairs had visited Kuwait in August, 1990 after its occupation by Iraq;

(b) whether it is also a fact that he was the first Foreign Minister of another country who had visited Kuwait;

(c) whether it is also a fact that he travelled in a special chartered plane, known as "Millionaire Flight"; and

(d) if so, the list of those Indian nationals who were evacuated by the then Minister of External Affairs in this Millionaire Flight and what was the basis of their selection to travel with him in that flight?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) and (d) No, Sir The Minister of External Affairs travelled in an Indian Air Force transport aircraft on which 256 Indian nationals were brought to India, selected on the basis of medical or other exigencies and the recommendations of the local organisations of Indians

News item captioned 'Madras Telephones face Equipment Supply Crunch'

765 SHRI R GANESAN *alias* MISA R. GANESAN.

SHRI V GOPALSAMY

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state.

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to news item 'Madras Telephones face equipment supply crunch' which appeared in Indian Express dated 1st September, 1990,

(b) whether any steps have since been taken to increase the equipment supply,

(c) what is the installed capacity of Madras Telephones as on date;

(d) the number of people on the waiting list as on date;

(e) the number of telephones added to each Exchange in Madras Telephones during the last three years, and

(f) the number of lines expected to be added to Madras Telephones in the near future?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS SHRI JAI PARKASH). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) More switching equipments have been allotted.

(c) The installed capacity of Madras Telephones as on 30-11-1990 is 180050.

(d) The waiting list for Madras Telephone as on 30.11.1990 is 70516.

(e) The details is given in the Statement. (*See* below)

(f) The number of lines expected to be added during the 1990-91 and 1991-92 is as under.

1990-91—17200 Lines

1991-92—36000 Lines

Statement

List of exchanges in Madras Telephones in which Telephones lines have been added during the last three years

Sl.No	Names	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
1	Ambattur	500	750	450
2	Avadi	500		1000
3	Central West			(—)3000
4	Ennur		800	400
5	Flower Bazar	1000	5000	1000
6	Kelpauk			( )300
7	Madhavaram	500		800
8	Manali		400	
9	Punnamali		+800	..
			(-)500	
10	Harbaur-II		5000	4200
11	Annanagar			2700

1	2	3	4	5
12	Anna Road-I		..	1750
13	Anna Road-II	2500	.	3100
14	Chrompet	1000	500	500
15	Haddows Road "86"	10000	..	
16	Haddows Road "825"	.	.	5400
17	Ashoknagar	.	..	2700
18	Mambalam-II	5000	..	
19	MEPZ	400		
20	R K Nagar		3000	700
21	St Thomas Mount	900		..
22	Central East	.	(-)10,000	.
23	Old Anna Road	(—)6000		

(-)=Replacement

Formation of Tourism circuits in Tamil Nadu

766 SHRI R GANESAN *alias* MISA R. GANESAN
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) whether Tamil Nadu State Highways Department has forwarded to Central Government any project for fromation of seventh tourism circuits connecting potential tourism spots within the state·

(b) if so, what is the estimated cost of this project, and

(c) whether any action has been taken to approve this project and allot funds?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA)· (a) to (c) The State Government has posed eleven projects estimated to cost Rs 21 15 Crores to be taken up under the Central Loan Assistance Programme of State Roads of Inter-State or Economic Importance during 8th Five Year Plan As the Eighth Plan is yet to be finalised no action has so far been taken to consider these projects for approval

Cochin-Madurai National Highway

767 SHRI TINDIVANAM G VENKATRAMAN
SHRI V GOPALSAMY

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 978 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st March, 1990 and state

(a) the quantum of funds allotted for Cochin-Madurai highway so far and how much of it has since been spent

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that roads in that area are in bad shape and no repair is being done, and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to repair the highway?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA) (a) Based on the conditions survey for Cochin-